Eng Laws & Statutes BL 20/2
— re Hearth Money

THE SEVERAL

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT

MADE

For Eſtabliſhing, Ordering and Collecting of His Majeſties Revenue ariſing

BY

HEARTH-MONEY:

Abſtracted alſo in an INDEX,

AND

Margented accordingly,

For the benefit of ſuch perſons as are or may be concerned therein.

In the *Savoy*,

Printed by the Aſſigns of *John Bill* and *Chriſtopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1668.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

An Abſtract

OF THE

Acts contained in this Book.

Firſt Act,

Anno xiiijo Caroli II. Regis.

FRom the 25 of *March* 1662. Every houſe, &c. in *England* and *Wales*, ſhall be chargeable with the Annual payment of Two ſhillings for every Fire-hearth, &c. within every ſuch houſe, &c. *pag.* 3

Payable at *Michaelmas* and *Lady*-day by equal portions.

Every Occupier ſhall deliver a juſt accompt of his Fire-hearths, &c. to the Conſtables, &c. within ſix days after notice. 4

The Conſtables, &c. ſhall require ſuch an Accompt by the laſt day of *May*, 1662. 5

Such Accompts ſhall be in writing under the hands of the Occupiers.

Notice ſhall be fixed to the doors of empty houſes. 6

The

The Conſtables, &c. ſhall enter into all houſes, &c. and compare the Accompts.

And ſhall take information by their own view, where no Accompt is delivered.

The Conſtables, &c. ſhall forfeit five pounds for every weeks neglect.

Forty ſhillings ſhall be forfeited for every falſe return. 7

The Conſtables, &c. ſhall deliver their Accompts to the Juſtices of the Peace, at the next Quarter-Seſſions after the ſaid laſt of *May*;

With the names of ſuch perſons as have not given in their Accompts. 8

The Juſtices ſhall cauſe ſuch Accompts to be Inrolled by the Clerk of the Peace,

And a Duplicate thereof (ſigned by three Juſtices) ſhall be returned into the Exchequer within one moneth.

The Clerk of the Peace ſhall forfeit Two hundred pounds for the firſt moneths neglect. 9

And for the ſecond, he ſhall loſe his place.

The Officers ſhall Collect the moneys within ſix days after due. 10

They ſhall give Acquittances freely,

And ſuch Acquittances ſhall be a full diſcharge. 11

The Collectors (upon non-payment) ſhall levy the ſame by diſtreſs and ſale of goods,

Rendring the overplus, charges deducted.

The Collectors ſhall (within twenty days after due) pay the money to the High Conſtables. 12

The High Conſtables ſhall give the Collectors Acquittances, and allow them two pence in the pound for Collecting.

The Collectors ſhall deliver to the High Conſtables, the names of the perſons who have paid,

With the names of ſuch as have not paid, where no diſtreſs can be had. 13

The High Conſtables (within ten days after their receipt) ſhall pay the moneys to the High Sheriffs,

Deducting one peny in the pound for their pains.

They ſhall deliver alſo the Returns they received from the Collectors.

The Sheriffs (within thirty days) ſhall return the moneys into the Exchequer,

With the Defaulters names not diſtrainable; 14

Deducting four pence in the pound, *viz.* three pence for themſelves, and one peny for the Clerk of the Peace.

High Sheriffs of Cities or Towns, being Counties of themſelves, are made Collectors, *&c.* 15

Conſtables, *&c.* in ſuch places ſhall deliver Duplicates to ſuch Sheriffs.

Such Sheriffs ſhall levy the duty, and give Acquittances without Fees. 16

And ſhall (within fourty days after due)

due) return the money into the Exchequer, with the names of persons not distrainable,

Deducting three pence in the pound for themselves, and one peny for the Clerk of the Peace. 17

The Exchequer-Officers shall discharge persons without Fees,

And shall issue out Process against Defaulters, &c.

The Revenues of this Act shall be paid duly into the Exchequer, and shall not be charged with any Gift or Grant, &c. 18

All such Grants, &c. shall be void, and the Grantees shalll be made Accomptants, &c.

All persons acting herein, shall be Indempnified, 19

And shall recover treble Costs, if molested.

Increase or decrease of such Hearths, &c. shall be made in form aforesaid, 20

And the Occupiers shall be charged or discharged accordingly.

No person shall be accomptable for any Arrears, unless put in Suit within two years:

Be brought to a Judgement within four years, and the duty levied within five years from the time due.

No person exempted (by reason of poverty) from payments to the Church and Poor, shall be chargeable by this Act, &c. 21

Certificates may be given by the Churchwardens and Overſeers for the Poor, with the Miniſter, &c. 22

Upon ſuch Certificates (allowed by the two next Juſtices of the Peace) perſons ſhall not be returned.

And ſuch houſe, &c. ſhall be diſcharged. 23

Perſons procuring or accepting any Penſion, &c. out of this Revenue, ſhall forfeit double the value;

The one moyety to the Poor, and the other to the party Suing. 24

No Blowing-houſe, &c. ſhall be charged by this Act,

Nor any Hearth within the Scite of any Hoſpital, &c.

The payments ſhall be charged upon the Occupiers only. 25

No perſon Indebted for the Duties of this Act, ſhall be thereby priviledged to Sue another in the Exchequer, &c. 26

Second Act,

Anno xv^o Caroli II. Regis.

THE Juſtices of Peace at the next Seſſions after *Michaelmas* 1663. ſhall iſſue Warrants to the High Conſtables, &c. 28

Who ſhall iſſue like Warrants to the Petty Conſtables, &c.

Requiring them (the next Sunday after morning Service) to give publick notice

notice in the Church, &c.

And particular notice to every Occupier of any house, &c. within their Precincts,

That (within ten days) they give to them a just Accompt of all Houses, &c. 29

The Constables, &c. shall (upon Receipt thereof) with two other Inhabitants enter into all Houses, &c.

And shall compare and examine the truth of such Accompts, and Endorse them according to view.

And transmit them (within twenty days after Receipt) to the High Constable, &c.

Together with a Book or Roll with two Columnes; 30

The one with the names of the Persons and Hearths, &c. chargeable in their possessions,

The other of Persons and Hearths, &c. not chargeable.

The High Constables, &c. shall compare, and (within six days after Receipt) transmit them to the two next Justices of Peace,

Who shall examine the said High Constables, &c. upon Oath concerning the truth of their Actings. 31

The said Justices shall (within ten days after examination) Sign and transmit such Accompts to the Clerk of the Peace.

The Clerk of the Peace (within twenty days) shall Engross the said Book or Roll, &c. And

And (within two moneths) Engroſs a Duplicate thereof.

Which Signed by him and two Juſtices, &c. ſhall be tranſmitted (within one moneth) into the Exchequer. 32

Every Occupier not giving in (or omitting any Hearth, &c. in) his Accompt, ſhall forfeit Fourty ſhillings for every ſuch Omiſſion.

The Conſtables, &c. neglecting their Duty, ſhall forfeit for every offence Five pound. 33

Every High Conſtable, &c. neglecting his Duty, ſhall forfeit for each offence Ten pound.

Which Forfeitures ſhall be recovered by Action of Debt, &c. 34

The changing of Annual Officers ſhall not Excuſe or Diſable them from Collecting, &c. any the Revenues payable, &c. 35

Every perſon appointed by the Acts to Collect, &c. ſhall forfeit Twenty ſhillings for every weeks neglect of his Duty.

Any Officer (by the Acts enabled to Enter and Diſtrain) may call to his Ayd two other Inhabitants, &c. 36

All Sheriffs made Collectors may Execute by their Deputies. 37

The Officers of Inns of Court, &c. ſhall do all things as the Conſtables, &c. under like penalties, and without Warrant from the Juſtices.

And Occupiers there ſhall do all things under like Penalties as Occupiers elſewhere. 38

The High Bayliff of *Westminster*, &c. may (after the Twenty eighth of *September* 1663.) put the Powers of the Acts in Execution, &c.

And shall be subject to the same Penalties, and receive the same Reward as other, &c.

The Sheriff of *Middlesex* is Discharged from Acting in *Westminster*, save about Arrears onely. 39

The Constables, &c. of *Westminster* shall deliver their Accompts to the said Bayliff.

The Bayliff of *Southwark* may Execute like Powers, &c. 40

He shall be subject to like Penalties, and may receive like Reward, &c.

The Sheriff of *Surrey* disabled, &c.

The Constables, &c. of *Southwark* shall deliver their Accompts to the said Bayliff. 41

The Lord Treasurer, and Chancellour of the Exchequer may make further Allowance to the Clerks of the Peace, not exceeding one peny in the pound. 42

Third Act,

Anno xvjo Caroli II. Regis.

THe Kings Majesty, &c. may appoint Officers to Receive and Answer the Duty arising by Fire-hearths, &c. 49

And for viewing and numbring the said

ſaid Hearths, &c. and inſpecting the Returns thereof made, & to be made.

And to examine the Rolls, &c. returned into the Exchequer.

And with a Conſtable, &c. (or without where none) to enter into any Houſe, &c. 50

And ſearch, if there be any more Fire-hearths, &c.

And what are increaſed, and what decreaſed, &c.

And to make like ſearch once every year.

If they ſhall find any Variance, they ſhall Certifie the ſame to the Clerk of the Peace. 51

Which being approved by the Juſtices at their Seſſions, ſhall be tranſmitted into the Exchequer.

Such Officers ſhall Collect the Duty from the 24 of *June*, 1664.

The Duty ſhall be paid (when due) upon demand thereof at the Houſe, &c. 52

In default of payment one hour after Demand, the Duty may be Levied by Diſtreſs and ſale of Goods, &c.

Reſtoring the overplus, Charges deducted not exceeding one Moyety of the Duty. 53

None ſhall be charged, &c. for the Duty after it hath been due two years.

Nor for any old Arrears, after two years from the 24 of *June*, 1664.

Oppoſition or Injury to any Officer, &c. ſhall be proved by Oath before a Juſtice

Juſtice of Peace. 54
Such Juſtice of Peace may impriſon Offenders for the ſpace of one moneth.
After the 24 of *June* 1664. all Officers appointed to Collect the Duty by the former Acts, ſhall be diſcharged from Acting otherwiſe then by this Act. 55
The Officers ſo appointed ſhall pay the Duty into the Exchequer.
All Perſons to be imployed ſhall give ſecurity for the diſcharge of their Truſts,
And ſhall take a Corporal oath, &c. for the due Execution thereof. 56
They ſhall not demand any Fee, &c. under penalty of diſabling and rendring treble, &c.
They ſhall give Acquittances, which ſhall be final Diſcharges.
Upon removal of any Occupier, &c. before the half-year day, 57
The next Occupier ſhall be chargeable with ſuch half-years Dues.
They that ſhall ſtop up, &c. any Hearth, &c. chargeable, ſhall pay double the value of the Duty.
They that within one year paſt have (or hereafter ſhall) let the Lands, &c. formerly belonging to any houſe, &c. or ſhall divide any Houſe, or Let the ſame to Perſons exempted by the Acts, ſhall pay the Duty as they ought to have done before. 58
The Occupier of every Dwelling (not being an Alms-houſe) which hath more then two Chimneys, &c. in it,

ſhall

ſhall not be exempted, &c. 59
Differences ariſing about Execution of this Act ſhall be determined by one or more Juſtices of Peace.
Collectors not paying in the Moneys received by them within three moneths after due, ſhall loſe their Offices. 60
Juſtices of Peace, &c. are required to aſſiſt the Officers appointed to Collect the Duty.
No Perſons producing a Certificate for their Exemption, ſhall be queſtioned for any Arrears due, on or before *Lady-day*, 1664. 61
Nor any Perſon, who hath paid the Duty, and ſhall make proof thereof.
The Collectors appointed by this Act, &c. ſhall pay unto the Conſtables, &c. the Allowances made to them in any of the former Acts. 62

Anno

Anno Regni
CAROLI II.
REGIS
Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,
DECIMO QUARTO.

At the *Parliament* begun at *Westminster* the Eighth day of *May*, *Anno Dom.* 1661. In the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of our most Gracious Soveraign Lord *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And there continued till the Nineteenth of *May*, in the Fourteenth year of His Majesties said Reign. And thence Prorogued to the Eighteenth of *February* then next following.

In the *Savoy*,
Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1668.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

MAY 69

Anno XIV.

CAROLI II. Regis.

AN ACT FOR Eſtabliſhing an Additional Revenue upon His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, for the better ſupport of His and their Crown and Dignity.

PREAMBLE.

FOraſmuch as nothing conduceth more to the Peace and Proſperity of a Nation, and the Protection of every ſingle

perſon therein, then that the Publick Revenue thereof may be in ſome meaſure proportioned to the publick Charges and Expences; We therefore Your Majeſties moſt Loyal and Obedient Subjects, the Commons aſſembled in Parliament, having duely conſidered the Premiſſes, do give and grant unto Your moſt Excellent Majeſty, Your Heirs and Succeſſors, the Rates and Duties herein after mentioned, and do humbly beſeech Your Majeſty that it be Enacted, And be it Enacted by the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the advice and conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame,

From the 25 of *March* 1662. Every houſe, &c. in *England* & *Wales*, ſhall be chargeable with the Annual payment of Two ſhillings for every Fire-hearth, &c. within every ſuch houſe, &c.

That from and after the Five and

and twentieth day of March, in the year of our Lord God, One thousand six hundred sixty and two, every Dwelling, and other House and Edifice, and all Lodgings, and Chambers in the Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, Colledges, and other Societies that are, or hereafter shall be erected within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed (other then such as in this Act are hereafter excepted and declared) shall be chargeable, and by this present Act, be and are charged with the Annual payment to the Kings Majesty, His Heirs and Successors for every Fire-hearth, and Stove within every such House, Edifice, Chambers, and Lodging, as aforesaid, the sum of Two shillings by the year, to be paid yearly, and every year

Payable at *Michaelmas* and *Lady*-day, by equal portions.

at the Feaſt of St. Michael the Archangel, and the Feaſt of the Annunciation of the bleſſed Virgin St. Mary, by even and equal portions; the firſt payment thereof to be paid upon the Feaſt-day of St. Michael the Archangel, which ſhall be in the year of our Lord, One thouſand ſix hundred ſixty and two.

And to the intent that a juſt account may be had and taken of all the ſaid Hearths and Stoves by this Act intended to be charged; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Owner or Occupier of every ſuch Houſe, Edifice, Lodgings and Chambers, ſhall reſpectively within ſix days after notice given unto him or them, by the reſpective Conſtables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, or other ſuch Officers, within whoſe Precinct the ſaid Houſe, Edifice, Cham-

Every Occupier ſhall deliver a juſt Accompt of his Fire-hearths, &c. to the Conſtables, &c. within ſix days after notice.

Chambers or Lodgings shall be, or by the respective Treasurers or Officers of Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, or other Officers of the respective Colledges, and other Societies aforesaid, wherein any such Lodgings and Chambers shall be, deliver unto the said Constables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, or other such Officers as aforesaid respectively, a true and just account in writing under the hands of such Owners or Occupiers as aforesaid, of all the said Hearths and Stoves which are within their several and respective Houses, Lodgings and Chambers aforesaid.

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the respective Constables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, or other such Officers, within whose limits any such House or Edifice charged by

The Constables, &c. shall require such an Accompt by the last day of *May*, 1662.

this Act as aforesaid, are, and the respective Treasurers, and other Officers of the respective Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, Colledges, and other Societies aforesaid, shall by the last day of May, One thousand six hundred sixty and two, require the several Occupiers of every such House, Edifice, Lodging & Chamber aforesaid, to deliver in to them respectively Accompts in writing as aforesaid under their several and respective hands, of all such Hearths and Stoves as aforesaid, as shall be within their respective Houses, Edifices, Lodgings and Chambers; and upon receipt of the same, or upon default of such Accompt in writing, or in case there be no occupiers, then within six days after notice in writing, first to the door, requiring such accompt to be made,

Such Accompts shall be in writing under the hands of the Occupiers.

Notice shall be fixed to the doors of empty houses.

made, the said Constables, or other Officers respectively, as aforesaid, shall enter into the said respective Houses in the daytime, and compare such Accompts, and see whether the same be truly made, or not. And if no such Accompt be delivered, then shall take information by their own view, of the number of such Hearths and Stoves, upon pain that every Constable, Treasurer, and other Officer aforesaid, who shall neglect to do the same, shall forfeit for every week he or they shall so neglect, the sum of Five pounds; and for every false return wilfully made contrary to this Act, he or they shall forfeit and lose for every Hearth or Stove so falsly returned or omitted, the sum of Forty shillings.

The Constables, &c. shall enter into all houses, &c. and compare the Accompts.

And shall take information by their own view where no Accompt is delivered.

The Constables, &c. shall forfeit five pound for every weeks neglect.

Fourty shillings shall be forfeited for every false return.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afore-

The Constables, &c. shall deliver their Accompts to the Justices of the Peace at the next Quarter-Sessions after the said last of *May*.

said, That the several Constables, and other Officers, who are hereby authorised to take the account of the aforesaid Hearths & Stoves within their particular Limits as aforesaid, shall at the next Quarter-Sessions after the said last day of May, to be holden for their respective Counties, deliver all such Accounts in writing, as they shall receive, reform, or take by their own view, unto the Justices of Peace in their respective Quarter Sessions of the said Counties, together with a true Note of the names of all such persons who shall refuse or neglect to give unto them an account under their hands of such Hearths and Stoves within their respective Houses, Edifices, Chambers and Lodgings, as aforesaid.

With the names of such persons as have not given in their Accompts.

And be it further Enacted, That

That the ſaid Juſtices of Peace ſhall cauſe all the ſaid Accounts of the ſeveral Hearths and Stoves within the reſpective Counties to be Inrolled by the Clerk of the Peace of the ſaid reſpective Counties, Ridings in Yorkſhire, and Diviſions in Lincolnſhire, and alſo a Duplicate thereof in Parchment, under the Hands and Seals of three or more of the Juſtices of Peace of the reſpective Counties and places aforeſaid, who are hereby required to ſign the ſame to be returned into his Majeſties Court of Exchequer within one moneth next after ſuch account delivered unto them at their reſpective Quarter Seſſions aforeſaid, upon pain that the Clerk of the Peace of every ſuch County, Riding or Diviſion reſpectively offending therein, ſhall forfeit to His Majeſty,

The Juſtices ſhall cauſe ſuch Accompts to be inrolled by the Clerk of the Peace.

And a Duplicate thereof (ſigned by three Juſtices) ſhall be returned into the Exchequer within one moneth.

The Clerk of the Peace ſhall forfeit 200 *l.* for the firſt moneths neglect.

His Heirs and Succeſſors, the ſum of Two hundred pounds for the firſt moneth; and for the ſecond moneth he ſhall ſo neglect, every ſuch Clerk of the Peace ſhall forfeit and loſe his or their place and office, and the ſame ſhall become void accordingly; which forfeiture and penalty ſhall be recovered and levied as this Act directs.

And for the ſecond he ſhall loſe his place.

And to the intent that the Revenue hereby ariſing to His Majeſty, may from time to time be paid into His Exchequer with as little charge as may be; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the reſpective Treaſurers, and other Officers of the Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, Colledges, and other Societies aforeſaid, within their reſpective Juriſdictions, and the ſeveral Petty-Conſtables, Tithing-men, Head-

The Officers ſhall Collect the moneys within ſix days after due.

Head-boroughs, and such other Officers within the respective Limits, Liberties and Jurisdictions, shall every half year within six days after the said duty shall grow due, as aforesaid, collect, gather, and receive the same from the several Occupiers of the said Hearths and Stoves, and upon payment thereof, shall give several Acquittances (without taking any thing for such Acquittances) unto the several persons who shall pay the same: And that such Acquittances shall be a full and perfect discharge to every such person who shall pay the same, against His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors; so that no person who shall have such Acquittance, shall be molested, sued, or vexed, or put to any charge in his Majesties Court of Exchequer or elsewhere.

They shall give Acquittances freely,

And such Acquittances shall be a full discharge.

And

The Collectors (upon non-payment) shall levy the same by distress and sale of goods.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any person who is hereby charged, or intended to be charged to pay any sum or sums of money as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same, that then every person or persons who is hereby authorized to collect the same, shall and may levy the same by distress and sale of the goods of the person and persons so refusing or neglecting, rendring unto the said person and persons the overplus of such money as shall remain in their hands by the said sale, after the said duty and necessary charges of levying the same is discharged as aforesaid.

Rendring the over-plus, charges deducted.

The Collectors shall (within twenty days after due) pay the money to the High Constables.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the aforesaid Constables, Treasurers, and other Officers, who are hereby authorized to collect the afore-

aforesaid duties, shall within Twenty days next after the aforesaid times at which the said duties shall be due to His Majesty, as aforesaid, pay unto the High Constables of the several Hundreds and respective Limits, all such money as they shall receive for the aforesaid duties, receiving an Acquittance without paying any thing for the same, and deducting Two pence in the pound for their pains in collecting the same; And shall also then in writing under his hand, deliver unto the said High Constable, the names of the persons of whom they receive the same, and also the names of such persons who ought to have paid the respective duties yearly charged upon them, and have not paid the same, where no distress can be had.

The High Constables shall give the Collectors Acquittances, and allow them two pence in the pound for collecting.

The Collectors shall deliver to the High Constables the names of the persons who have paid,

with the names of such as have not paid, where no distress can be had.

And be it further Enacted, That

The High Constables (within ten dayes after their receipt) shall pay the moneys to the High Sheriffs.

That the High Constables of the several Hundreds and respective Limits, shall within ten days next after their several receipts from the said Constables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, and other Officers, pay unto the High Sheriffs of every County, all such money as they shall so receive, deducting a peny in the pound for their pains; and shall also then deliver or cause to be delivered unto the said High Sheriffs, the several returns which they received from the Constables, and other Officers aforesaid.

Deducting one peny in the pound for their pains.

They shall deliver also the returns they received from the Collectors.

The Sheriffs (within thirty days) shall return the moneys into the Exchequer,

And the respective Sheriffs shall within thirty days after he or they shall receive the said moneys from the respective Collectors, return the same, together with the names of such persons who are defaulters, and had no distress to be found,

with the defaulters names not distreinable,

found, into His Majesties Court of Exchequer, deducting Four pence out of every Twenty shillings, and so after that rate; whereof Three pence to be for the Sheriffs own use, as a reward of his pains in receiving and returning the same; and One peny to be paid by the Sheriff to the Clerk of the Peace, for his pains, to be recovered by the said Clerk of the Peace by Action of Debt.

deducting Four pence in the pound, *viz.* three pence for themselves, and one peny for the Clerk of the Peace.

Provided always, and be it Enacted, That the High Sheriff of London and Middlesex for the time being, for London and so much of the County of Middlesex as lies within the Bills of Mortality, other then the Inns of Court and Chancery; and the High Sheriff of Surrey for the time being for the Burrough of Southwark, and all other Sheriffs of any other City or Town, being a

High Sheriffs of Cities or Towns, being Counties of themselves, are made Collectors, &c.

a County of it ſelf, for ſuch Cities and Towns reſpectively, ſhall be, and are hereby made Collectors of, and for the ſeveral duties ariſing within their ſeveral and reſpective Limits; For which end and purpoſe, and in thoſe places onely, the Conſtables, Tithingmen, Headboroughs and other Officers ſhall deliver unto the Sheriffs of the Cities and places aforeſaid, Duplicates of the ſame Accompts of Hearths and Stoves, which the ſaid Conſtables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, and other Officers are appointed by this Act to take from time to time, and to deliver to the Juſtices of Peace to be Inrolled as aforeſaid; And the ſaid Sheriffs of the Cities and places laſt before mentioned, are hereby enabled to levy the ſaid duties, and required to give Acquittances

Conſtables, &c. in ſuch places ſhall deliver Duplicates to ſuch Sheriffs.

Such Sheriffs ſhall levy the duties, and give Acquittances without Fees.

ces

ces without any Fees, as fully and amply to all intents and purposes as in this Act is appointed to be done by any other Collectors; And the said Sheriffs shall from time to time within Fourty days after the said Duties shall be payable by vertue of this Act, make payment of all the moneys levied, into His Majesties Exchequer, with a perfect List of the names of such persons as shall make default of payment, where no distress can be found to be taken; Any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding. And the said Sheriffs shall deduct out of their payments Four pence in the pound; whereof Three pence to be for themselves, and One peny for the Clerk of the Peace, to be recovered as aforesaid,

And shall (within Fourty dayes after due) return the money into the Exchequer; with the names of persons not distreinable,

deducting three pence in the pound for themselves, and one peny for the Clerk of the Peace.

And that his Majesties Officers

The Exchequer-Officers shall discharge persons without Fees;

Officers in his said Court of Exchequer, shall discharge all such persons who paid their respective Duties, without taking any Fees for the same, and shall also

And shall issue out Process against defaulters, &c.

issue out Process to levy the said duty upon such persons who shall fail in payment thereof, where no distress can be found, to be taken according to this Act.

The Revenues of this Act shall be paid duly into the Exchequer, and shall not be charged with any Gift or Grant, &c.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Revenue and Sum of money arising by vertue of this Act, (Except what shall be allowed to the aforesaid Officers and Ministers for Collecting the same) shall be duly and constantly paid and answered into His Majesties Court of Exchequer; and shall not be particularly charged or chargeable, either before it be paid into the Exchequer, or after, with

with any Gift, Grants, or Pension whatsoever; And that all and every Grants of any such Pensions, and all and every clause of Non obstante therein contained shall be, and is hereby declared to be utterly void, and all and every the persons to whom such Grants are passed, shall be, and are hereby made Accomptants unto His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and shall pay back all sums of money received by pretence of such Grant; and the Court of Exchequer shall be, and is hereby enjoyned to issue out Process accordingly.

All such Grants, &c. shall be void, and the Grantees shall be made Accomptants, &c.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action, Bill, Plaint, Suit, or Information shall be Commenced or Prosecuted against any person or persons, for what he or they shall do in pursuance or execution of this

All persons acting herein shall be Indempnified.

this Act, such person or persons so Sued, shall and may plead the general Issue, Not Guilty; And upon Issue joyned may give this Act, and the special matter in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff or Prosecutor shall become Non-suit, or suffer discontinuance, or if a Verdict pass against him, or if upon a Demurrer Judgement pass against him, the Defendant shall recover treble Costs, for which there shall be like remedy as in any case where Costs by Law are given to the Defendants.

And shall recover treble Costs if molested.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Increase or Decrease of such Hearths or Stoves shall hereafter happen, that an account in writing of the same shall be had and made in like manner as the same is directed to be first taken,

Increase or Decrease of Hearths, &c. shall be made in form aforesaid.

return-

returned and inrolled by this Act; and a Duplicate thereof sent into the Exchequer in such sort as is before directed; And from thenceforth the Owner or Occupier of such House, where such Decrease is, shall be discharged proportionably without any further pleading in the Exchequer.

And the Occupiers shall be charged or discharged accordingly.

Provided always, That no person or persons shall be charged, prosecuted, or brought to account for the Arrearages of any Duty, or Arrearages of Revenue raised by this Act, unless the said Suit shall commence within two years, and be brought to a Judgement within four years, and the Duty levied within Five years next after the same shall grow due.

No person shall be Accomptable for any Arrears, unless put in Suit within two years,

Be brought to a Judgement within four years, and the duty levied within five years from the time due.

Provided always, That no person who by reason of his poverty, or the smalness of his Estate is exempted from the

No person exempted (by reason of poverty) from payments to the Church & Poor, shall be chargable by this Act, &c.

the usual Tares, Payments and Contributions, towards the Church and Poor, shall be charged or chargeable with any the Duties by this Act Imposed, Any thing herein before to the contrary notwithstanding.

Certificates may be given by the Churchwardens and Overseers for the Poor, with the Minister, &c.

Provided always, and be it hereby Enacted, That if the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish, together with the Minister of the same, or any two of them (whereof the Minister to be one) shall in writing under their hands yearly certifie their belief, that the house wherein any person doth Inhabit is not of greater value then of twenty shillings per annum, upon the full improved Rent; And that neither the person so Inhabiting, nor any other using the same Messuage, hath, useth, or occupieth any Lands or Tene-

Tenements of their own or others, of the yearly value of Twenty shillings per annum, nor hath any Lands, Tenements, Goods, or Chattels, of the value of Ten pounds in their own possession, or in the possession of any other in trust for them; That then in such case, upon such Certificate made to the two next Justices of Peace, and allowed by them (for which Certificate and allowance no Fee shall be paid) the person on whose behalf such Certificate is made, shall not be returned by the Constable, or other Officer; And the said house is hereby for that year discharged of, and from all the Duties by this Act imposed; Any thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

Upon such Certificates (allowed by the two next Justices of the Peace) persons shall not be returned.

And such house, &c. shall be discharged.

Provided also, and be it Enacted by the Authority

C afore-

Persons procuring or accepting any Pension, &c. out of this Revenue, shall forfeit double the value;

aforesaid, That if any person or persons, bodies Politick or Corporate, shall at any time hereafter procure or accept of from the Kings Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, any Pension, Gift, or Grant for years, life, or any other Estate, or any sum or sums of Money, out of the revenue arising by vertue of this Act, that then such person or body Politick or Corporate, procuring or accepting the same, shall forfeit double the value of such Pension, Gift, or Grant; the one moyety of which forfeiture shall be to the use of the Poor of the Parish or Parishes, where the said Offenders be, or inhabit, to be recovered by the Churchwardens; the other moyety to him that will sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information.

The one moyety to the poor, and the other to the party suing.

Pro-

Provided that this Act, or any thing herein contained shall not extend to charge any Blowing-house and Stamp, Furnace, or Kiln, or any Private Oven within any of the houses hereby charged, nor any Hearth or Stove within the scite of any Hospital or Alms-house for the relief of poor people, whose Endowment and Revenue doth not exceed in true value the sum of One hundred pounds by the year.

No blowing-house, &c. shall be charged by this Act,

Nor any Hearth within the scite of any Hospital, &c.

Provided, That the payments and duties hereby charged, shall be charged only on the Occupier for the time being of such Hearth or Stove, dwelling in such house whereto such Hearth or Stove shall be belonging, his Executors or Administrators, and not on the Landlord who Let or Demised the same, his Heirs, Executors or Assigns.

The payments shall be charged upon the Occupier onely.

No perſon indebted for the duties of this Act, ſhall be thereby priviledged to Sue another in the Exchequer.

Provided alſo, That no perſon or perſons Indebted for any the Duties aforeſaid, ſhall thereby be priviledged as a Debtor or Debtors to His Majeſty, His Heirs or Succeſſors, to ſue any perſon or perſons in the Court of Exchequer, or to aſſign any Debt to His Majeſty, His Heirs or Succeſſors, towards ſatisfaction of the ſame.

Anno

Anno XV.

CAROLI II. Regis.

An Additional Act for the better Ordering and Collecting the Revenue arising by Hearth-money.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas the Revenue Setled on His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, by a late Act, Entituled (An Act for establishing an Additional Revenue upon His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the better support of His and their Crown and Dignity) **hath been much obstructed for want of true and just Accompts**

compts under the hands of the respective Occupiers of Houses, Edifices, Lodgings and Chambers, as by the said Act is required, and by the negligence of Constables and other Officers intrusted with the Taking and Reforming such Accompts: Be it therefore Enacted by the Kings most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by Authority of the same, That the Justices of the Peace of the respective Counties, Corporations, Places and Limits within their respective Jurisdictions, at the next Sessions to be held after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next ensuing, or the major part of them then present, shall issue out Warrants under their

The Justices of Peace at the next Sessions after *Michaelmas* 1663 shall issue Warrants to the High Constables, *&c.*

their Hands and Seals to the respective High Constables, or other like next Officer, who shall issue the like Warrants unto the Petty Constables, Headboroughs and Tithingmen, requiring them on the next Sunday after Morning-Service ended, to give publick notice in the Church or Chappel generally to all the Inhabitants, and also to give notice publickly in the Church, and particularly as aforesaid to every Inhabitant within their respective Precincts; that shall then be Occupier of any House, Edifice, Lodging or Chamber, That within Ten days next after such notice, he give a true and just acccompt in writing under his hand, of all Hearths and Stoves in such respective House, Edifice, Lodging and Chamber, unto such respective

who shall issue like Warrants to the petty Constables, &c.

requiring them (the next Sunday after morning Service) to give publick notice in the Church, &c.

And particular notice to every Occupier of any house, &c. within their Precincts,

That (within ten days) they give to them a just Accompt of all houses, &c.

The Constables, &c. shall (upon receipt thereof) with two other Inhabitants enter into all houses, &c.

Constable, Headborough and Tithingman; who upon receipt of such Accompt, shall with Two other substantial Inhabitants of the said respective Precinct, whom they are hereby Authorized to Charge for that purpose, in the day-time enter into the respective House, Edifice, Lodging, and Chamber, and upon his own view

And shall compare and examine the truth of such Accompts, and endorse them according to view,

compare such Accompt, and see whether the same be truly made or not, and Endorse the said Accompt accordingly to what he finds upon his view; which Accompt so received and Endorsed, shall be by him

And transmit them (within twenty days after Receipt) to the High Constable, &c.

transmitted within twenty days after such Receipt, to the respective High-Constable, or other like Officer as aforesaid, together with a Book or Roll fairly written, wherein shall be two Columnes,

together with a Book or Roll with two Columnes.

The

The one containing the Names of the persons, and number of Hearths and Stoves in their respective Possessions, that are chargeable by the said Act; and the other the Names of the persons, and number of Hearths and Stoves in their respective Possessions, which are not chargeable by the said Act: Which being so received by such respective High Constable or other like Officer as aforesaid, and compared together, shall within six days after such Receipt be transmitted to the two next respective Justices of the Peace, who are hereby impowered to examine the said respective High Constable, or other like Officer as aforesaid, Petty Constable, Headborough or Tythingman, upon Oath, concerning the truth and faithfulness of their actings in the

The one with the names of the Persons and Hearths, &c. chargeable in their possessions.

The other of Persons and Hearths, &c. not chargeable.

The High Constables, &c. shall compare, and (within six days after Receipt) transmit them to the two next Justices of Peace,

who shall examine the High Constables, &c. upon Oath concerning the truth of their actings.

premiſes; which being done, the ſaid Juſtices ſhall within ten days after ſuch examination, Sign and Tranſmit the ſaid Book and Roll together with the ſaid Original Accompts ſo Endorſed as aforeſaid, and Filed together, unto the reſpective Clerk of the Peace, who ſhall within Twenty days after receipt thereof, Engroſs the ſaid Book or Roll in Parchment, to be ſtill kept in the reſpective County and Places aforeſaid; and ſhall alſo within Two Moneths Engroſs in Parchment a true Duplicate of the ſaid Book or Roll, which being Signed by him and by two Juſtices of the Peace at leaſt of the reſpective County and Places aforeſaid, ſhall be tranſmitted within one Moneth after ſuch Engroſſment into His Majeſties Courts of Exchequer.

The ſaid Juſtices ſhall (within ten days after examination) Sign and tranſmit ſuch Accompt to the Clerk of the peace.

The Clerk of the peace (within twenty days) ſhall Engroſs the ſaid Book or Roll, &c.

And (within two moneths) Engroſs a Duplicate thereof,

which ſigned by him and two Juſtices, &c. ſhall be tranſmitted (within one moneth) into the Exchequer.

Pro-

Provided always, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Occupier of any House, Edifice, Lodging, or Chamber, shall not make or cause to be made an Accompt, or shall omit in his Accompt required to be made by this Act, any Hearth or Stove; he shall for every such Hearth or Stove he shall so omit, forfeit the sum of Forty shillings.

Every Occupier not giving in (or omitting any Hearth, &c. in) his Accompt, shall forfeit Forty shillings for every such Omission.

Provided also, That if any Petty Constable, Headborough or Tythingman to whom such Accompts as aforesaid shall come, shall neglect to transmit the same, together with a Book or Roll in manner and time aforesaid, to the respective High Constable, or other like Officer as aforesaid, or shall make default in giving such notice as aforesaid, or in comparing the Accompt with two substantial Inha-

The Constables, &c. neglecting their Duty shall forfeit for every offence Five pound.

bitants as aforesaid, shall forfeit for every such offence the sum of Five pounds.

Every High Constable, &c. neglecting his Duty, shall forfeit for each offence x *l.*

Provided also, That if any High Constable or other like Officer as aforesaid, shall neglect to compare the said Original Accompts and the said Book or Roll, or to transmit the same in manner and time aforesaid, he shall for every such Offence forfeit the sum of Ten pounds. All which before mentioned Forfeitures and Penalties shall be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of His Majesties Courts of Record, the one half to the use of His Majesty, the other half to the use of him or them that shall sue for the same.

Which forfeitures shall be recovered by Action of Debt, &c.

And whereas His Majesties said Revenue setled by the aforesaid Act, hath been much prejudiced by Annual changing of Petty Constables,

bles, Headboroughs, Tythingmen, High Constables, and Sheriffs, to whom the Collecting and Receipt of His Majesties said Revenue is thereby intrusted; Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the changing of such Annual Officers, or leaving of their said Offices, shall not excuse or disable any person who shall be Constable, Headborough, Tythingman, High Constable, or Sheriff at the time that any Revenue or Duty shall grow due or payable by the said Act, from Collecting, Distraining, and Receiving respectively such Revenue or Duty so grown due; but that every such person in such case is hereby enabled and required to do all things respectively, as to such Revenue or Duty so growing due, as if he had continued Constable, Headborough,

The changing of Annual Officers shall not excuse or disable them from Collecting, &c. any the Revenues payable, &c.

borough, Tythingman, High Constable or Sheriff; Any thing in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Every person appointed by the Acts to Collect, &c. shall forfeit twenty shillings for every weeks neglect of his duty.

Provided also, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person who by the said, or this Act, ought to Collect, Distrain for, Receive or Pay over any the said Revenue, shall neglect or refuse to do his duty therein, for every week he shall neglect or refuse, he shall forfeit the sum of Twenty shillings, to be recovered in manner, and by such person or persons as the aforesaid Forfeitures by this Act are to be recovered.

Any Officer (by the Acts enabled to enter and distrain) may call to his aid two other Inhabitants, &c.

Provided also, and be it Declared and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all cases which by this or the aforesaid Act, any Petty Constable, Headborough, or Tythingman, may enter into the house of any

any person, or may Distrain the Goods of any person, he may call to his aid any two sufficient Inhabitants of the respective Townships or Precincts, who are hereby enjoyned to assist him therein.

Provided also, and be it Enacted and Declared by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Sheriff is by the aforesaid Act appointed to be Collector of any part of the said Revenue, that such Sheriff may execute the said place of Collector, by such Deputy or Deputies as to him shall seem meet, being thereunto appointed under the Great Seal of his Office, or under his own hand and seal; Any thing in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

All Sheriffs made Collectors may execute by their Deputies.

Provided also, and be it Enacted by the Authority afore-

The Officers of Inns of Court, &c. shall do all things as the Constables, &c. under like penalties, and without Warrant from the Justices;

aforesaid, That the respective Treasurers, and other Officers of the respective Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, Colledges, and other Societies chargeable by the aforesaid Act for their Hearths and Stoves, shall do all things as the respective Constables by this Act are enjoyned to do, under the like Penalties, though without any Warrant from the respective Justices of the Peace; And that every Occupier of any House, Edifice, Lodging or Chamber within any the respective Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, Colledges and Societies aforesaid, shall do all things, and under the like Penalties as are required by this Act of any Occupier of any House, Edifice, Lodging or Chamber elsewhere.

And Occupiers there shall do all things under like penalties as Occupiers elsewhere.

Provided always, and be it Enacted by the Authority afore-

aforesaid, That the High Bayliff of Westminster for the time being, or his or their Deputy or Deputies, may within the City and Liberties of Westminster, from and after the Eight and twentieth day of September next, Collect & Levy the said Duty, and put in execution all the Powers of the said former Act, and this present Act, as amply as any Sheriffs who by the said former Act are made Collectors, may do within their respective Limits and Jurisdictions appointed to them by the said Act: And the said Bayliff for the time being shall be subject to the same Penalties and Duties as the said Sheriffs are, & shall receive the same reward; and the Sheriff of Middlesex for the time being is discharged from putting in execution the Trust aforesaid in the said City and Liberty of Westminster, from the

The High Bayliff of *Westminster*, &c. may (after the 28 of *September* 1663.) put the powers of the Acts in execution, &c.

And shall be subject to the same Penalties, and receive the same reward, as other, &c.

The Sheriff of *Middlesex* is discharged from acting in *Westminster*, save about arrears onely.

the ſaid Eight & twentieth day of September, ſaving only for the Collecting of ſuch Arrears as then ſhall happen to be: And the Conſtables and Headboroughs, and other Officers within the ſaid City and Liberty of Weſtminſter, ſhall deliver unto the ſaid Bayliff, Duplicates of all Accompts of Hearths and Stoves, and do all other things in ſuch manner as by the ſaid Act they ought to have done unto the ſaid Sheriffs; Any thing in the ſaid, or this Act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

The Conſtables, &c. of *Weſtminſter* ſhall deliver their Accompts to the ſaid Bayliff.

Provided always, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the Bayliff of the Burrough of Southwark for the time being, his Deputy or Deputies, may within the ſaid Burrough, and other Liberties of Southwark, from and after the Eight and twen-

The Bayliff of *Southwark* may execute like powers, &c.

twentieth day of September next, Collect and Levy the said Duty, and put in execution all the Powers of the said former Act, and this present Act, as amply as any Sheriffs who by the said former Act are made Collectors may do within their respective Limits and Jurisdictions appointed to them by the said Act; and the said Bayliff for the time being shall be subject to the same Penalties and Duties, as the said Sheriffs are, and shall receive the same reward; and the Sheriff of Surrey for the time being is discharged from putting in execution the Trust aforesaid in the said Burrough & Liberties of Southwark, from the said Eight and twentieth day of September; And the Constables and other Officers within the said Burrough and Liberties, shall deliver unto the said Bayliff,

He shall be subject to like penalties, and may receive like reward, &c.

The Sheriff of *Surrey* disabled, &c.

The Constables, &c. of *Southwark* shall deliver their Accompts to the said Bayliff.

liff, Duplicates of all Accompts of Hearths and Stoves, and do all other things in such manner as by the said Acts they ought to have done unto the said Sheriffs; Any thing in the said former or this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Lord Treasurer, and the Chancellour of the Exchequer may make further allowance to the Clerks of the Peace, not exceeding one peny in the pound.

Provided also, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Lord High Treasurer of England, and the Chancellor of His Majesties Court of Exchequer, or either of them, to give and make such further allowance unto the Clerks of the Peace of the respective Counties of this Kingdom (for their labour and pains in and about the Writing, Engrossing and Returning into His Majesties Court of Exchequer, the Duplicates and Returns of the several Constables, in Parchment, over and

and besides what is allowed by the said first recited Act) as the said Lord High Treasurer and Chancellor, or either of them shall think meet and convenient, the same allowance not exceeding One peny in the pound by the year; Any thing in the said former, or in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Anno

Anno XVI.
CAROLI II. Regis.

AN ACT FOR

Collecting the Duty arising by Hearth-money, by Officers to be appointed by His Majesty.

PREAMBLE.

WHereas by an Act made in the Parliament begun at Westminster the Eighth day of May, in the Thirteenth year of His Majesties Reign that now is, Entituled, An Act for Establishing an Additional Revenue upon His

His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the better support of His and their Crown and Dignity; And by another Act made in the second Session of the said Parliament in the Fifteenth year of the Reign of His said Majesty, Entituled, An Additional Act for the better Ordering and Collecting the Revenue arising by Hearth-money, It was Enacted and Ordained, That from and after the Five and twentieth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand six hundred sixty and two, every Dwelling, and other House and Edifice, and all Lodgings in Inns of Court, Inns of Chancery, Colledges, and other Societies that are, or hereafter shall be erected within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed (other then such as are therein excepted)

excepted) shall be, and are charged with the Annual payment to the Kings Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for every Fire-Hearth and Stove within every such House, Edifice, Chambers and Lodings, the sum of Two shillings by the year, to be paid yearly at the Feasts of Saint Michael the Arch-angel, and of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, by even and equal Portions; an exact and just Accompt of the numbers of all which Fire-Hearths and Stoves is thereby Enacted to be taken and returned into His Majesties Court of Exchequer; And the Moneys and Revenues due and payable for the same, to be Collected, Levied and Paid to His Majesty, by such persons and Officers, in manner and form as by the said Acts is prescribed.

Neverthelels, by reason of some defects in the said Act, and great negligence of the said Officers and other persons, in not returning the exact Numbers of the said Fire-hearths and Stoves, and not duely Collecting, Levying and paying into His Majesties Exchequer, the full Revenue due for the Numbers returned at the times appointed, and by sundry fraudulent practises to elude the said Acts, the said Revenue is much diminished, and not duely answered.

For remedy thereof, and for the better ascertaining and collecting the said Revenue for the future, Be it Enacted by the Kings most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by Autho-

Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Kings Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, from, and after the Four and twentieth day of June, One thousand six hundred sixty four, from time to time, by, and with the Advice of the Lord High Treasurer, Chancellour, Under-Treasurer, and Barons of the Court of Exchequer for the time being, or any three of them, whereof the Lord High Treasurer or Chancellour of the Exchequer to be one, to constitute and appoint such person or persons as His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors shall think meet, to be the Officer or Officers for the receiving and collecting, and answering the duty arising by the said Fire-hearths and Stoves, by vertue of the said several Acts, and for

The Kings Majesty, &c. may appoint Officers to receive and answer the duty arising by Fire-hearths, &c.

And for viewing and numbring the ſaid Hearths, &c. and inſpecting the returns thereof made, and to be made.

viewing and numbring of the ſeveral Chimney-Hearths and Stoves mentioned in the ſaid Acts; and for the inſpecting and examining the ſeveral Rolls, Certificates, and Returns thereof made, and to be made from time to time into His Majeſties Court of Exchequer, in purſuance of the ſaid Acts, or any other thing belonging to the ſame: which Officers, or any of them ſhall have full power to examine and ſupervile the Rolls and Numbers of Fire-hearths and Stoves already returned into the ſaid Court of Exchequer; And being accompanied with the Conſtable, or the Tythingman, Treaſurer, Under-Treaſurer, or other publick or proper Officer of the place (who are hereby required to attend and aſſiſt upon this occaſion)

And to examine the Rolls, &c. returned into the Exchequer.

And with the Conſtable, &c. (or without, where none) to enter into any houſe, &c.

sion) and in all Parishes and places where there are no Constables, Tithingmen, or other publick Officer as aforesaid, there, without any such assistance to enter in the day-time into any dwelling or other House, Edifice, Lodgings and Chambers aforesaid, And to search and examine whether there be any more Fire-hearths and Stoves in the same then were formerly returned or certified, and what Fire-hearths or Stoves are increased, or decreased since the former Certificate. After which search and examination, the said Officer, with a Constable, or Tithingman, or Officers as aforesaid, shall have liberty to make the like search and examination once every year: And if they shall find any variance in the the number returned, both the Officer or Officers appointed by His Majesty,

And search if there be any more Fire-hearths, &c.

And what are increased, and what decreased, &c.

And to make like search once every year.

If they shall find any variance, they shall certifie the same to the Clerk of the Peace.

and the Constable or Tithingman, or other Officer as aforesaid, to certifie the same under his and their hands to the Clerk of the Peace, which Certificate they are hereby enjoyned to make: And after approbation thereof by the Justices of the Peace at their Sessions, the same to be certified to His Majesties Remembrancer in the Exchequer; and the Officer or Officers so appointed by His Majesty unto the same, shall from and after the said Four and twentieth day of June, One thousand six hundred sixty four, have power to Collect and Levy the Revenue and Duties so given to His Majesty as aforesaid, and all Arrears of the same.

Which being approved by the Justices at their Sessions, shall be transmitted into the Exchequer.

Such Officers shall Collect the duty from the twenty fourth of June, 1664.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Duty shall from time to time be paid after the Feast-days of Saint Michael the Arch-angel,

The duty shall be paid (when due) upon demand thereof, at the house, &c.

gel, and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary yearly, unto such Officer as shall be appointed by vertue of this present Act to receive the same upon demand thereof made by such Officer, or his Deputy, at the House, Chamber, or place where the same Duty shall arise, or grow due: And that in case of refusal, or default of such payment thereof, by the space of one hour after such demand, the said Officer or his Deputy may at any time, with the assistance of a Constable, Tithingman, or other Officer as aforesaid, in the day-time, levy the said Duty, and all the Arrearages thereof, by distress and sale of the Goods of the party or parties so refusing, or making default; restoring to the party or parties the overplus of the value of such Goods, over and above the Duty and Arrearages there-

In default of payment, one hour after demand, the duty may be levied by distress and sale of Goods, &c.

Restoring the overplus, charges deducted, not exceeding one moyety of the duty.

of then behind, and over and above the necessary Charges of taking such Distress, which Charges shall in no case exceed the one moyety of the Duty and Arrearages thereof so levied.

None shall be charged, &c. for the duty after it hath been due two years, &c.

Provided always, and be it Enacted, That no Owners, Proprietors, or Occupiers of the said Fire-hearths or Stoves, shall be charged, distrained, or molested for the said duty, or any Arrearages thereof, at any time after the space of two years next after the Duty hereafter shall become due to His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors; Nor for any Arrearages of the said duty already incurred, after the space of two years, from the Four and twentieth day of June, One thousand six hundred sixty & four.

Nor for any old Arrears after two years from the 24 of *June*, 1664.

Opposition or injury to any Officer, &c. shall be proved by oath before a Justice of Peace.

And in case of violent opposition, or injury done by any person or persons to any such

such Officer or his Deputy, in the due execution of this Act; and the same proved by Oath before any one Justice of the Peace, or chief Magistrate, or Magistrates of the City, Town, or place, dwelling near unto the place, who are hereby authorised to administer the said Oath; It shall and may be lawful to, and for such Justice of the Peace, Magistrate or Magistrates, to punish such offender or offenders, if he shall find cause, by Imprisonment in the common Goal, for any time not exceeding the space of one moneth. And from and after the said Four and twentieth day of June, One thousand six hundred sixty four, all Officers formerly appointed to Collect the said Duty, shall be discharged from the future collecting and levying the same, otherwise then as they are directed by this Act:

Such Justice of Peace may imprison offenders for the space of one moneth.

After the twenty fourth of *June*, 1664. all Officers appointed to Collect the duty by the former Acts, shall be discharged from acting otherwise then by this Act.

The Officers so appointed shall pay the duty into the Exchequer.

And the said Officer and Officers so appointed by His Majesty to collect this Duty, shall pay the same into His Majesties Exchequer, to the ends in the said former Acts mentioned.

All persons to be imployed, shall give security for the discharge of their trusts,

Provided, That no person or persons shall be employed as aforesaid, unless he and they shall first give in sufficient Security to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the due Collecting, Levying and Paying in of the said Revenue, or such part thereof as shall be committed to their respective Trusts, and shall likewise take a Corporal Oath before one or more of the Barons of the Exchequer, or before such persons as shall be authorised to take such Security and Oath by Commission from the said Court of Exchequer, for the due and faithful execution thereof, according to the Laws

And shall take a Corporal Oath, &c. for the due execution thereof.

Laws Enacted to that purpose; And that they shall not exact or demand any Fee, or sum of money for execution thereof, from any Subject, but onely from the Kings Majesty, under pain of being disabled to execute the said Office or Imployment; And upon legal Conviction of any such Crime, to render treble damage to the party grieved: And shall sign and deliver Acquittances for moneys by them received, without any Fee or Reward whatsoever; And every such Acquittance shall be a final Discharge, as in the said first Act is provided.

They shall not demand any Fee, &c. under penalty of disabling, and rendring treble, &c.

They shall give Acquittances, which shall be final Discharges.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any person occupying any Hearth or Stove chargeable to His Majesty, shall leave or relinquish any House, Edifice, Lodging or Chamber, before any of the half-yearly Feasts whereon

Upon removal of any Occupier, &c. before the half-year day,

the same is appointed to be paid to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors; In every such case, the next Occupier thereof shall be chargeable with the same for the said half-year: And if any person shall fraudulently stop up, deface, cover or conceal any Chimney-hearth, or Stove chargeable by the said Act, and the same be proved, either by confession of the party, or upon Oath before one Justice of Peace, or chief Magistrate, or by their view, he shall for such offence pay double the value of the Duty for the same, to be levied as aforesaid.

The next Occupier shall be chargeable with such half-years dues.

They that shall stop up, &c. any Hearth, &c. chargeable, shall pay double the value of the Duty.

And be it likewise Enacted, That if any person within one year last past hath, or hereafter shall let the Lands, Gardens, Orchards or Outhouses formerly belonging to any Dwelling-house or Cottage apart from the same, or shall divide any house

They that within one year past have (or hereafter shall) let the Lands, &c. formerly belonging to any house, &c. or shall divide any house, or let the same to persons exempted by the Acts, shall pay the Duty as they ought to have done before.

house into several dwellings, or let out the same to any such persons, who by reason of their poverty may pretend to be exempted from payment of the said Duty, by any Clause or Clauses in the former Acts, That in every such case, such person shall pay the said Duty in as ample manner as they ought to have done before that time. And that no person or persons inhabiting any Dwelling-house (not being an Alms-house exempted by the former Act) within any City, Burrough, Corporation, Market-Town, or Parish, which hath, or shall have in it more then two Chimneys, Fire-hearths or Stoves, shall be exempted from payment of the Duties thereon imposed, by colour of any exemption or pretext whatsoever.

The occupier of every dwelling (not being an Alms-house) which hath more then two Chimneys, &c. in it, shall not be exempted, &c.

And if any question or diffe-

Differences arising about execution of this Act, shall be determined by one or more Justices of Peace.

difference shall arise about the taking any Distress, or levying any money by vertue of this Act, the same shall be heard and finally determined by one or more of the Justices of the Peace near adjoyning, or chief Magistrate of the place respectively, upon complaint in that behalf.

Collectors not paying in the moneys received by them, within three moneths after due, shall lose their Offices,

And be it further Enacted, That every Collector who shall be authorised and appointed by vertue of this Act to receive any of the said Duties, shall truly answer and pay all such moneys as he shall receive for the said Duties, into his Majesties Receipt of Exchequer, half-yearly, within Three moneths after the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch-angel, or the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, happening next after the time the same moneys grew due to His Majesty by vertue

tue of the said Acts, and under the penalty of the loss of his Office: And the Justices of Peace, and chief Magistrates, Constables, and other His Majesties Officers within their several Limits and Jurisdictions, are hereby authorised and required to give assistance from time to time, to such Officers as shall be appointed by His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the collecting of the said Duty according to the true meaning of the said former Acts, and this present Act.

Justices of Peace, &c. are required to assist the Officers appointed to Collect the Duty.

Provided, That no person or persons shall be questioned for any Arrears due on or before our Lady-day, One thousand six hundred sixty four, who shall produce to the Collector a Certificate approved or to be approved of by the two next Justices of Peace, for their exemption from the said Duty for that time,

No persons producing a Certificate for their exemption, shall be questioned for any arrears due on or before *Lady*-day, 1664.

time, according to the Rules prescribed in the said first recited Act; nor any person who hath truly paid the said Duty, and shall, if it be required, make proof thereof before any one Justice of Peace, or other chief Magistrate of the place; Any thing therein contained, or any Return made into His Majesties Exchequer to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Nor any person who hath paid the Duty, and shall make proof thereof.

Provided also, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every such Officer or Officers as shall be at any time appointed by His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the collecting, gathering and receiving of the several sums of money now or hereafter to grow due unto His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for or in respect of the said Duty arising upon the Fire-hearths & Stoves, shall

The Collectors appointed by this Act, &c. shall pay unto the Constables, &c. the Allowances made to them in any of the former Acts.

shall satisfie and pay unto the respective Petty-Constables and Clerks of the Peace of this Kingdom, all such allowances as are by any former Act or Acts given and allowed unto them, as well for their pains and labour heretofore, as hereafter to be taken by them, as in and by the former Acts concerning Fire-hearths and Stoves are limited and appointed; Any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

By

By the King.

A PROCLAMATION

For the more exact and punctual Collecting and Answering His Majesties Revenue arising upon Fire-hearths and Stoves.

CHARLES R.

WHereas Our Revenue arising by Fire-hearths and Stoves, hath of late time been very much in arrear, and continues still behind and unpaid in many parts of Our Kingdom, partly through the misdemeanours of some persons who have presumed to conceal many Fire-hearths and Stoves, for which by Law they are chargeable, And to prevent the discovery of such Frauds,

Frauds, refuse to permit Our Officers or their Deputies to make their views, or to take Distresses; And partly through the neglect or connivance of several Justices of Peace, chief Magistrates, Ministers, Constables, and Churchwardens, who have given too much countenance to illegal and undue Certificates, and too little assistance to Our Officers and their Deputies in Collecting the said Revenue, whom they have in some places suffered to be reproached, and sometimes assaulted, without punishing the Malefactors; although it be the Duty of all Constables, Headboroughs, and other inferior Officers, to accompany, assist, and defend Our Officers and their Deputies in their Collections, and the duty of all Justices of the Peace, and chief Magistrates in their respective

Places

Places and Callings, and with the utmost of their Authority to support Our Revenue, so well established by Law, and so necessary to the safety and defence of Us and Our good Subjects: We therefore resolving for the time to come to take a strict Accompt of all such persons as shall hereafter be found wanting in their Duty to Us, and to the Laws of Our Kingdom, have thought fit by the advice of Our Council, to Declare, and do hereby Publish Our Royal Will and Pleasure, That all Arrears of Our said Revenue, as well those which were incurred at or before the Feast of St. Michael, in the year of Our Lord One thousand six hundred sixty and five, as those which have incurred since, and all future growing duties, shall forthwith, and with all possible speed and diligence, be collected and levied

levied by, and paid unto Our respective Officers & their Deputies appointed for that purpose; That is to say, What was due, at or before Michaelmas 1665. to such Receivers or Collectors as already are, or shall be Commissionated by Us in pursuance of the Act of Parliament in that behalf, and to none other; And what did grow due for the half-year ended at Lady-day 1666. and not before, and so forward, to the Farmers of Our said Revenue, their Sub-farmers and Substitutes during their Term; The said Farmers, their Sub-farmers or Substitutes having no Authority, nor being any way concerned in the Receiving or Collecting any part of the said Revenue which did grow due before Our Lady-day 1666. aforesaid, nor of any Penalty or Forfeiture which was not incurred till after

after Michaelmas 1665. And We do hereby straitly Charge and Command all Justices of Peace, chief Magistrates, Headboroughs, Constables, Tithingmen, and all other Officers and Ministers of Justice whom it doth or may concern, That they be aiding and assisting to Our said Officers and their Deputies in the Collecting and Levying the said Arrears; and also in the Collecting and Levying all such further sums of money as hereafter shall grow due and payable for or by reason of any Fire-hearths or Stoves, according to the utmost of their power: And herein We do expect and require from them and every of them, so vigorous and effectual assistance, that all concealment of any Hearths or Stoves may be speedily detected, all illegal and undue Certificates discharged for

for exempting of any persons, all obstructions in the Collecting of Our said Revenue removed, and all persons which shall assault or affront Our Officers or their Deputies either in word or deed, exemplarily punished, upon pain of Our high Displeasure, and of being proceeded against as Contemners of Our Royal Authority, and as persons ill affected to the Peace and Safety of Our Kingdom. And to the end Our Will and Pleasure herein may be made known, We do hereby Will and Require all Sheriffs, Mayors and Bayliffs in the several and respective Counties, Cities, and Town-corporate of this Our Realm, to cause this Our Proclamation to be Published in all and every the Market-places within their Limits, upon some Market-day, within Fourteen days next after

after their Receipt thereof, as they will answer the contrary at their perils.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the 19th day of December, in the 18th year of Our Reign, 1666.

God save the King.

In the *SAVOY*,
Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, His Majesties Printers, 1668.